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HARRIMAN ALASKA EXPEDITION—CRYPTOGRAMS.

Of the scientific results of the Harriman expedition to Alaska in 1899 two instalments appeared some time ago. Three more have now been published almost simultaneously, by Doubleday, Page & Co. In Volume III, Grove K. Gilbert, of the United States Geological Survey, follows up Mr. Muir's earlier account of the glaciers with the story of his own observations and conclusions. A comparison is made between the size and conditions of rivers of ice as previously reported and as they existed in 1899, thus affording indications of the recent changes and furnishing the basis for future study. Professor Gilbert was especially alert, too, to phenomena which would throw light on the glaciation of the eastern part of the United States many thousand years ago.

The papers on "Geology and Paleontology" (Volume IV) were contributed by five different experts, three of whom accompanied the expedition, the others having discussed material submitted for examination. Dr. William H. Dall, Dr. B. K. Emerson and Dr. Charles Palache conducted their researches in person. Inasmuch as Mr. Harriman's steamer merely skirted the coast, geological investigation was necessarily fragmentary. So incomplete is existing knowledge about Alaska, though, that every addition counts. One of the noteworthy results achieved was the correlation of slates and shales in three widely separated regions, and the determination of their age as early Jurassic. Another was the discovery of molluscan fauna in Eocene rocks, in a locality that was the scene of volcanic activity in early Tertiary time.

The observations of living cryptogrammic plants—fungi, lichens, algæ, mosses, sphagnum, liverworts and ferns—were made by Dr. William Trelease and several assistants, and are embodied in Volume V (Botany). No less than 1,616 species were found in all, and their relationship with others elsewhere has been carefully worked out. An entertaining account of the utilization of plants by the natives is contained in Dr. Trelease's introduction.

The fungi are treated by P. A. Saccardo and Charles H. Peck; the lichens by Miss Clara E. Cummins, with admirably simple keys; the algæ by Dr. Alton Saunders; mosses by J. Cardot and I. Theriot; sphagnum by C. Warnstorf, whose determinations have been edited by Dr. Trelease; the liverworts by Alex. W. Evans; and the pteridophytes by Dr. Trelease.

The phanerogams are to be presented in two volumes, under the editorship of Mr. F. V. Coville, and are announced for the current year.

A. M. S.